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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

IN RE: .

Patti Jean Starke Garlick, R.N.
12 Raymond Drive
East Hampton, CT 06424

R 37099

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing was presented by the Department of Health Services with a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges dated July 17, 1984.

The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378, Connecticut General Statutes. The Notice of Hearing provided that the hearing would take place on August 9, 1984 in the State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Each member of the Board of Examiners for Nursing involved in this decision attests that he/she has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record.

FACT

1. Patti J.S. Garlick, respondent, was at all pertinent times licensed to practice nursing as a registered nurse in Indiana with registration number 0-77437.

2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-182(c), the respondent was provided a full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of her license.

3. The respondent: a) on or about April 1, 1982 while employed as a nurse at Wishard Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana failed to properly chart a dose of the controlled substance Morphine; b) on or about February 1, 1983 while employed as a nurse at Winora Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana took Sodium Pentothal from the hospital stocks and converted it to her own use by injecting herself while on duty so as to render herself unconscious.; c) on February 16, 1984 the Indiana Board of Nurse's Registration held a hearing on the above two count complaint and found the respondent guilty of improper professional practice and/or professional misconduct; d) the conduct upon which Patti Starke was disciplined by the Indiana Board of Nurse's Registration would, if committed in Connecticut, constitute professional misconduct under Section 20-99(b) of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

DISCUSSION

4. The First Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) on or about April 1, 1982 while employed as a nurse at Wishard Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana failed to properly chart a dose of the controlled substance Morphine. The respondent administered the single dose of Morphine to herself to counteract the results of diet pill consumption. Following this incident, the respondent sought psychological counseling.

In pertinent part Section 20-99(b) forbids: ...(5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals; ...(7) wilful falsifi-

cation of entries in any hospital, patient or other record pertaining to drugs, the results of which are detrimental to the health of a patient.

The Board determined that on or about April 1, 1982 while employed as a nurse at Wishard Memorial Hospital the respondent failed to properly chart a dose of the controlled substance Morphine and administered the Morphine to herself. Following the incidents, the respondent sought psychological treatment.

The respondent failed to conform to the standards of nursing for medication administration by improper charting of a controlled substance and administering the substance to herself.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the First Count.

5. The Second and Third Counts allege that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) on or about February 1, 1983 while employed as a nurse at Winora Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. The respondent took Sodium Pentothal from the hospital stocks and converted it to her own use by injecting herself with the substance while on duty so as to render herself unconscious.

In pertinent part Section 20-99(b) forbids: ...(5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals; ...(7) wilful falsification of entries in any hospital, patient or other record pertaining to drugs, the results of which are detrimental to the health of a patient.

The Board determined that on or about February 1, 1983, the respondent while employed at Winora Memorial Hospital took Sodium Pentothal from the hospital stocks and injected herself while on duty so as to render herself unconscious. Following the termination of her employment at Winora Memorial

Hospital, the respondent became active in a nurse support group and enrolled in the Fairbanks Intensive Out-patient Program.

After moving to Connecticut, the respondent: (1) became active in the development of the "Nurses for Nurses" support group; (2) has been employed at John Dempsey Hospital, Intensive Care Unit. The Indiana Board of Nurse's Registration and Nursing Education placed the respondent on probation for one (1) year.

The respondent's Clinical Director (Nursing) is aware of the disciplinary action rendered in Indiana and is complying with the supervisor's role in this probation requirement for the respondent.

Standards of nursing require: (1) medications be secured and administered to patients as prescribed; and (2) a nurse maintain physical and psychological health necessary to provide safe patient care.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the Second and Third Counts.

ORDER

6. It is the unanimous decision of the Board of Examiners for Nursing that:
 - a. The license of the respondent be placed on probation with terms and conditions for a minimum period of one (1) year (retroactive to February 16, 1984) determined as follows:
 - i. as to the First Count, probation for one (1) year;
 - ii. as to the Second Count probation for one (1) year
 - b. The suspensions will run concurrently for a total effective probation for one (1) year. The period of suspension will be from February 16, 1984 to February 16, 1985.

Suspension Closed

c. Terms and conditions of probation are:

- i. Respondent shall keep the Board informed of her current address, place of employment, and name of immediate supervisor;
- ii. Respondent shall have her immediate supervisor at her place of employment directly submit a copy of the first report remitted to the Indiana Board and copies of each subsequent report which are due at the beginning of the eighth month and the twelfth month of probation. Said reports should include analysis, evaluation, and basis for conclusions as to the following:
 - a) the competency of the respondent's nursing practice;
 - b) the competency of the respondent in documenting and administering medications particularly controlled substances.
- iii. Respondent shall submit affidavits of attending support groups at the beginning of the eighth month and the twelfth month of probation;
- iv. The Board may order the Respondent to submit to reasonable physical or mental examination;
- v. During the course of the probationary period, the Respondent shall appear before the Board upon the Board's request.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 23rd day of October, 1984

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

BY: Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N.
Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N., Chairman